

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): An illuminator comprising:

a planar light source unit ~~having reflectance of from 50 to 90 % with respect to light in a state in which the light is emitted from a light source provided separately from the planar light source and incident on said planar light source unit;~~ and

a reflective type polarizer disposed on a light exit side of said planar light source unit so that a reflected light component and a transmitted light component of polarized light can be obtained from natural light incident on said reflective type polarizer,

wherein the planar light source has a reflectance of from 50 to 90 % with respect to light in a state in which the light is emitted from a light source provided separately from the planar light source and incident on said planar light source unit in a non-emission state in which said planar light source is turned off.

2. (Original): An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein the reflectance of said planar light source unit is selected to be not lower than 70 % whereas the polarized light reflectance of said reflective type polarizer is selected to be not lower than 40 %.

3. (Previously presented): An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein said reflective type polarizer is a linearly polarized light separating sheet.

4. (Original): An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein said reflective type polarizer is one of a reflective type polarizer having a light-diffusing layer on its light exit side and a reflective

type polarizer diffusing transmitted light.

5. (Original): A liquid-crystal display device comprising an illuminator according to claim 1, and a liquid-crystal display panel disposed on an upper side of said reflective type polarizer in said illuminator.

6. (Original): An illuminator according to claim 3, wherein the linearly polarized light separating sheet is made of a multilayer laminate of at least two kinds of materials different in refractive index.

7. (Previously presented): An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein said reflective type polarizer is a circularly polarized light separating sheet.

8. (Previously presented): An illuminator according to claim 7, wherein the circularly polarized light separating sheet is made of cholesteric liquid-crystal layers.

9. (Previously presented): An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein luminance is improved by not less than 1.5 times as compared to when no reflective type polarizer is used.

10. (Previously presented): An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein luminance is improved by not less than 1.6 times as compared to when no reflective type polarizer is used.